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Finance Committee Minutes 03-26-2003

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

7:30 PM O'Neill room, community safety building
 3/26/03

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz	Feinleib*	O'Riordan*	O'Neill	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons*	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Town Manager Nancy Galkowski, Planning Director Alan McClennen, Marianne Racioppi, Ted Wilson, Deanne Benson, Kathy Cauley, Jam R Lee, Johnathan Frosh, Ann Briggs, Betsey Baldwin, Paul Bayer

MINUTES of 3/17/03 accepted as printed. Unanimous

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ARTICLES

ARTICLE 44 LOCAL 680: Galkowski stated that this union accepted a 3% pay raise retroactive to July 02 and an increase in health insurance co-payment for drugs, ER, and office visits. This is the same as the Library and NAGE accepted last spring. She pointed out that the budget for FY04 will have to be increased from the figures in the budget book for these employees to maintain this level of pay. She provided a draft vote with the figures.

VOTED favorable action with the funds to come from warrant articles as stated in the Manager's draft. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 45 NAGE: Negotiations for FY04 have not begun. VOTED no report. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 46 LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS: Negotiations for FY04 have not begun. VOTED no report. Unanimous

ARTICLE 47 FIREFIGHTERS: FY03 contract in arbitration. VOTED no report. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 48 PATROLMEN: FY03 contract in fact-finding. VOTED no report. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 49 RANKING OFFICERS: FY03 contract not settled. VOTED no report. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 50 M SCHEDULE & NON-UNION: Galkowski has not discussed with the Board of Selectmen VOTED no report. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 51 ELECTED OFFICIALS: No recommendation. VOTED no report. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 52 FUNDING FUTURE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: Galkowski recommended that funds be set aside to cover the cost in FY04 of FY03 settlements.

ARTICLE 55 DEFERRED COMPENSATION: Galkowski anticipates retirements and would like to increase the funds currently available for various buybacks by about \$50,000. General Government Subcommittee asked to get details.

ARTICLE 63 TOWN CELEBRATIONS: Galkowski said that there are substantial "soft costs" that have been part of Police and Public Works budgets and are not included in these Warrant Article figures. As an example, she said that police costs on Patriots' Day are around \$5,000. She has eliminated these budget items and this is why she

recommended not funding the warrant article. Galkowski confirmed that by putting up flags only in the centers, no additional funds are needed for flags. The Finance Committee requested her to provide a full-funding estimates.

ARTICLE 60 COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS: Galkowski offered to absorb the Capital Planning Committee budget into the Manager's Budget. VOTED to reduce the Capital Planning Committee budget to \$0. Unanimous.

Galkowski also said the Commission on Disabilities does not need its budget. VOTED, subject to approval by the Commission Chair to reduce the Commission on Disabilities to \$0. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 64 MISCELLANEOUS:

64B Unemployment Compensation: The funds needed are uncertain. The Governor has proposed raising the cap from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per person. There is some offset by reduction in health insurance savings. Since the number of layoffs is uncertain, both budgets are also uncertain. One possibility is to hold the funds that might be needed in the Reserve Fund and transfer them as required.

64C Out-of-State Travel: Galkowski recommended reducing this item by half. VOTED \$1,500 Unanimous.

ARTICLE 65 & 66 FINANCING OF WATER & SEWER PROJECTS: The MWRA is not offering zero-interest loans this year. Necessary maintenance will continue using enterprise funds. VOTED \$0. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 75 ADJUSTMENTS TO FEES: Galkowski has asked the Town Counsel to make recommendations. Such fees may not exceed the cost of the service.

ARTICLE 26 GIBBS: McClennen provided a copy of the School Committee vote relinquishing the school and recommending that the building be sold to help pay for school renovations. Gibbs is included in the report discussed below. The Board of Selectmen has voted to transfer the Gibbs to the Redevelopment Board.

ARTICLE 27 SALE OF TOWN PROPERTIES: McClennen reviewed a study (copies provided) that the Planning Department carried out at the Manager's direction. The report estimates the possible yield that the Town might realize from the sale of each of six properties (Gibbs, Parmenter, Crosby, Fox, Park Circle, Mt Gilboa) together with the complications involved in each case. He also provided a spreadsheet showing the rental income from the three former schools managed by the Redevelopment Board. Because these properties would require extensive modification for conversion to condos, the most likely scenario, and because in two cases long-term leases would have to be broken, the Town would be unlikely to receive anything like the post-conversion market value. In several cases park or conservation land is involved. In addition, these properties provide the Town with valuable but hard to quantify services -- preschool, private elementary schooling, basketball gym space, art education, disabled person work center. McClennen estimates tax income to be less than current rentals. The Finance Committee suggested that McClennen have a one-page summary available at Town Meeting. VOTED no action. Morrisette & DeCoursey to investigate Mt Gilboa. Unanimous.

REEDS' BROOK: Could finish this summer if final Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approval takes place. Disarray at DEP makes this doubtful.

PEIRCE FIELD: A Conservation Commission variance needed to work on the culvert. The Conservation Commission is willing but there is a legal impediment.

ARTICLE 69 CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REBATE: O'Neill spoke with the Town Counsel. Maher said that when he explained to the contractor that the permit work was done and payment was not refundable, he also made an off hand comment that only the Town Meeting could appropriate funds for a rebate. Apparently he neglected to mention taking the property owner to small claims court. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 57 APPROPRIATION PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION: Foscett reported that the Commission Chair Don Vitters knows nothing about the article. It was probably a word-processing mistake. VOTED no action. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 53 POSITION RECLASSIFICATION: O'Neill provided a list of 15 changes to the Classification & Pay Plans. All appropriations are included in the budgets. Members wondered why these changes are needed so soon after the recent extensive review and adjustment. O'Neill to request the Personnel Director to explain and provide the dollar impact.

COMMITTEE: Chair requested all members to review entire budget and forward questions to appropriate subcommittee in hopes of saving time in April. The House budget will be released from committee on 4/23 and the Town Meeting starts 4/28. Kneeland provided a meeting schedule showing meetings on 3/31, 4/2, 4/14, 4/16. The

printed version was adjusted to include an override discussion and the Personnel Director.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$300,000

Peter B. Howard
Secretary

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote / assigned to
1					11	2/19	2/19	by law chng	11-2
2					13	2/8	2/8	support	
3					14	2/19		no report	
4					17	2/19		no report	
5					20	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
6					21	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
7					23				Foskett
8					24				
9					25	2/19		no report	
10					26	3/26			
11					27	3/26	3/26	no action	Unanimous
12					30	2/26		info request	
13					31	2/26		info request	
14					32	2/19		no report	
15					33	2/8	postponed		
16					34	2/8	postponed		
17a					37				
17b					38				
17c					39				
17d					41	2/6	info req'd		
17e					42	2/6	info req'd		
17f					43	2/6	info req'd		
19					44	3/26	3/26	favor blact	Unanimous

20					43	3.26	3.26	no report	Unanimous
21a					46	3.26	3.26	no report	Unanimous
21b					47	3.26	3.26	no report	Unanimous
21c					48	3.26	3.26	no report	Unanimous
21d					49	3.26	3.26	no report	Unanimous
22					50	3.26	3.26	no report	Unanimous
23					51	3.26	3.26	no report	Unanimous
24					52	3.26			
25					53	3.26			O'Neill
26					55	3.26			Du Bois
WS					56				
Rec	3.6				57	3.26	3.26	no action	Unanimous
Rnk					59				De Courcy
COA					60	2.19.26	2.19.26	10% reduct	Unanimous
						3.6 Hum Rt	3.6	4500	Unanimous
						3.26 CPC	3.26	0	Unanimous
						3.26 Disabl	3.26	0	Unanimous
YS					61	2.19	2.19	no action	Unanimous
					63A	2.26.3.26	2.19	2000	8-7
					63B	2.26.3.26	2.19	5667	14-1
					63C	3.26			
					63D	2.26	2.19	0	Unanimous
					63E	2.26	2.19	3000	12-2
					64B	3.26 Un Em			
					64C	3.26 Trav	3.26	1500	Unanimous
					64E	2.26	2.26	9813	Unanimous
					65	3.26	3.26	no action	Unanimous
					66	3.26	3.26	no action	Unanimous
					67	2.6.2.11	2.11	no action	Unanimous
					68	3.17	3.17	no action	Unanimous
					69	2.11	2.11.3.26	no action	Unanimous
80					70	2.19	2.19	no action or \$35k w/ OR	12-2